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Statement by Jeanette Zentgraf to the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 20 2007

To support SB 454, this Senate Judiciary Committee would have to believe that the existing state laws do not protect homosexuals from assault, that school administrators need more legal authority in order to discipline bullies, and that straight people who are offended by overt homosexual behavior in the work place, for example, should be silenced and hamstrung as they try to shield themselves and their children.

Many years ago when N.Y. State passed a Bill that added sexual orientation to the existing Hate Crimes Law, the schools were deluged with sex-education curriculums. Many of us parents were offended by the curriculum at Murphy Jr. High School, which described homosexuality as simply an alternate life style and stressed its normalcy, but the Three Village School Board did not support us. The Board members were afraid of the ACLU who would consider their intolerance of homosexuality to be a Hate Crime.

I know that once MT State Law gives special protection to the homosexual, straight people, Christians, and other religious people will be prejudiced against in the public arena, which is really intolerance against those who believe that homosexuality is abnormal, immoral or sinful.

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